

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HONG K 13572 141017Z

13-12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 /075 W

----- 007439

R 130900Z NOV 75 ZDK
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8006
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 13572

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINS PINT ECON VN VS

SUBJ: HANOI-BASED JOURNALIST COMMENTS ON VIETNAMESE REUNIFICATIONS

1. DURING A BREIF VISIT TO HONG KONG, AFP DIRECTOR
IN HANOI JEAN THORAVAL PROVIDED SOME INTERESTING
COMMENTS ON EVENTS IN VIET NAM TO A CONGEN OFFICER.
THORAVAL, WHO HAS BEEN LIVING IN HANOI FOR SEVERAL
YEARS, CLAIMS TO BE ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH PHAM
VAN DONG AND OTHER DRV OFFICIALS. BASED ON HIS
SOUNDINGS OF THE HANOI COMMUNITY, THORAVAL EXPECTED
FORMAL REUNIFICATION OF VIETNAM TO TAKE PLACE IN
MARCH 1976. HE FELT THAT ABOUT THE SAME TIME THE
VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP WOULD CONVENE A
VIETNAM WORKERS' PARTY CONGRESS. FOLLOWING FORMAL
REUNIFICATION, HE EXPECTED THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO
GIVE ITS STAMP OF APPROVAL TO THE 1976-1980 VIETNAM
ECONOMIC PLAN. SINCE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTH
ARE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE NORTH,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HONG K 13572 141017Z

THORAVAL BELIEVED THAT THE FIVE YEAR PLAN WOULD

CONTAIN A SEPARATE SUB-CHAPTER DEALING WITH CONDITIONS PECULIAR TO THE SOUTH.

2. THORAVAL CLEARLY FELT THAT SOUTHERNERS IN GENERAL AND THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN PARTICULAR HAD LITTLE CLOUT IN PRESENT DAY VIETNAM. HE CITED TWO RECENT EXPERIENCES WITH RSVN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE DRV, NGUYEN VAN TIEN. ON ONE OCCASION WHILE INQUIRING ABOUT HIS REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE SOUTH, THE PRC REPRESENTATIVE APOLOGIZED FOR THE DELAY IN OBTAINING THE PERMISSION, PLEADING THAT "HE WAS NOTHING BUT A LETTER BOX." ON ANOTHER OCCASION AT A COCKTAIL PARTY, THE SAME SUBJECT WAS RAISED AGAIN WITH THE PRG REPRESENTATIVE, WHO RESPONDED "WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK TO MY DRV COLLEAGUE?" THORAVAL SAID THAT, DURING HIS RECENT TRIP THROUGH THE SOUTH, HE WAS SURPRISED AT THE EXTENT THE NORTHERNERS HAD SEIZED CONTROL OF THE SOCIETY. HE RECOGNIZED THE BAGGAGE INSPECTORS AT THE SAIGON AIRPORT AS BEING FROM HANOI CUSTOMS. HE NOTED THAT EVEN THE CLERKS IN HIS HOTEL IN DANANG HAD BEEN SENT DOWN FROM THE NORTH.

3. COMMENTING ON THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN THE SOUTH, THORAVAL SAID THAT IT WAS GENERALLY ESTIMATED IN HANOI CIRCLES THAT THE RESISTANCE FORCES CONSISTED OF 10,000-12,000 TROOPS BUT THAT NO ONE TOOK THEM AS A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT. HE OBSERVED THAT CAMBODIA WAS A TABOO SUBJECT IN HANOI OFFICIAL CIRCLES, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF THE STRAINED RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE DRV AND THEIR FRATERNAL NEIGHBOR.

4. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS TO WHAT EXTENT THORAVAL'S VIEWS ARE BASED ON INFORMATION GLEANED FROM DRV CONTACTS AND HOW MUCH IS HIS OWN SURMISING, BUT HIS PREDICTIONS SEEM VERY PLAUSIBLE. (A FRENCH EMBOFF FROM HANOI INDICATED TO A CONGEN OFFICER THAT HE CONSIDERED THORAVAL THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE WESTERNER IN HANOI.) THE PRG/NLF MARIONETTES ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 HONG K 13572 141017Z

AGAIN BEING DUSTED OFF AND POLISHED FOR THE MUCH HERALDED "REUNIFICATION" SHOW PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY THE TWO HANOI POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBERS, TRUONG CHINH AND PHAM HUNG, WHO ARE HEADING THE "REUNIFICATION DELEGATIONS." THE HANOI LEADERSHIP APPARENTLY FEELS IT HAS GAINED AS MUCH AS IT CAN FROM THE TWO-ZONES APPROACH AND IT IS NOW TIME TO ABANDON THE CHARADE AND GET DOWN TO SERIOUS BUSINESS. THE PARTY HAS NOT

HELD A CONGRESS SINCE SEPTEMBER, 1960 AND THIS
WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO CAP THEIR HISTORIC
CONQUEST OF THE SOUTH. SHOULD THE NORTHERNERS
IGNORE SOUTHERN SENSITIVITIES AND CREATE A HANOI
RULING CLASS IN THE SOUTH, AS THORAVAL'S REPORT AND
OTHER INDICATIONS WOULD SEEM TO SUGGEST, SOUTHERN
ANTAGONISM FOR HANOI WILL BE FOSTERED AND WILL ONLY
EXACERBATE THE MANY PROBLEMS ALREADY CONFRONTING
THE NEW RULERS.
CROSS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL REVERSION, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK13572
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750396-1088
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751147/aaaabpqd.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HANOI-BASED JOURNALIST COMMENTS ON VIETNAMESE REUNIFICATIONS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, ECON, VN, VS, (THORAVALL, JEAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006